

HOUSE RESOLUTION 200  
By Roach

A RESOLUTION to honor Chancellor Chester S. Rainwater for  
laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those persons who through their personal and professional efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Chancellor Chester Rainwater of Jefferson County, who celebrated his retirement after 60 years of dedicated service to the good people of Jefferson and Cocke Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Rainwater name is synonymous with Jefferson County, as family members have played significant roles in every facet of life in the community; and

WHEREAS, Chester Rainwater served in the Army during World War II; and

WHEREAS, he began his estimable career as a lawyer in Dandridge, where he is considered one of the most able lawyers in the state of Tennessee; he has dedicated his efforts to continually expanding his knowledge and skill; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Rainwater served with rare acumen in the Tennessee State Legislature from 1951 through 1953; and

WHEREAS, he has devoted his time and great ability to the school board for 13 years, 11 of those years as the board's chair; he served with great probity as County Attorney for 20 years, Chancellor for 20 years, and was on the Board of Directors of the Appalachian Co-op for 31 years; and

WHEREAS, Chester Rainwater's many friends and admirers include esteemed lawyers, judges, and city and state officials, many of whom were present at a retirement celebration to honor him at the Jefferson County Courthouse; and

WHEREAS, those gathered at the ceremony and who reflected on this remarkable man's accomplishments were: judges Houston Goddard, Michael Sweeney, William Inman, Gary Wade, Norman Ogle, Dennis Inman, Richard Ford, Kenneth Porter, William Holt, Rex Ogle, Ben Hooper II, Richard Vance, Telford Fogarty, O. Duane Sloane, A. Benjamin Strand, Dwight Stokes, Jeff Rader, and George Acuff; and

WHEREAS, Judge Kenneth Porter shared in the numerous accolades and stated, "Chester Rainwater is a lawyer's lawyer, a judge's judge"; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Rainwater is esteemed as a father figure, an outstanding professional, and a great mentor; Circuit Judge Rex Ogle praised him as, "one of the most eminent jurists our state has ever produced"; and

WHEREAS, a truly humble man, Chancellor Rainwater expressed his deep appreciation for his many friends and shared his love for the community and his many positive experiences; and

WHEREAS, Chester Rainwater epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; his portrait will be displayed in his honor at the Jefferson County Court House; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Rainwater is most grateful for the love and encouragement he shares with his family; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to applaud Chester Rainwater for his dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and commend Chancellor Chester Rainwater for his service to the state of Tennessee, and extend our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.